

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled).

2. (cancelled).

1           3. (currently amended) A device for no-hands  
2 transfer of a scalpel comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a supporting base,  
4           a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
5 base,  
6           a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
7 opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to  
8 limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
9 allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
10 handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
11 the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
12 base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
13 device having the grip being arranged to resist  
14 longitudinal reverse movement of the scalpel blade out of  
15 the receiver and the grip and pitch movement out of the  
16 grip with a friction force sufficient to reliably hold a  
17 straight scalpel handle in a gripped position while the

18 device is handled by a surgical nurse to present the  
19 straight scalpel handle in a vertical or near vertical  
20 position for grasping by a surgeon with a large portion  
21 of the straight scalpel handle on a side of the grip  
22 remote from the blade receiver in a cantilever condition  
23 extending beyond said device such that it is free of  
24 physical interference from adjacent parts of the device.

1 4. (original) A device as set forth in claim 3,  
2 wherein the body includes a finger-grip area to enable  
3 the nurse to grasp the device.

1 5. (previously presented) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 4, including laterally extending finger guards on  
3 opposite sides of an area between the grip and the  
4 receiver and outward of said finger grip area.

1 6. (previously presented) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 5, wherein the finger guards extend in a plane  
3 above a location to be occupied by a scalpel in the  
4 receiver and in the grip.

1 7. (currently amended) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 6, wherein the finger guards have laterally outward  
3 portions remote from said finger grip area that extend  
4 downward from said plane.

1           8. (previously presented) A device as set forth in  
2 claim 4, wherein the finger grip area has a wasp waist  
3 configuration that has a narrow zone between wider zones  
4 to facilitate fingertip grasping of the device.

1           9. (original) A device as set forth in claim 3,  
2 wherein the blade receiver includes a narrow throat area  
3 to laterally confine the scalpel blade.

1           10. (previously presented) A device for no-hands  
2 transfer of a scalpel comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a supporting base,  
4 a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
5 base,  
6 a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
7 opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to  
8 limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
9 allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
10 handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
11 the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
12 base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
13 grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse  
14 movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the  
15 grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction  
16 force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a

17 gripped position while the device is handled by a  
18 surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in a  
19 vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a  
20 surgeon,  
21 the blade receiver including a narrow throat area to  
22 laterally confine the scalpel blade,  
23 the throat area including a thin membrane that is  
24 adapted to be cut by the scalpel blade.

1 11. (previously presented) A device for no-hands  
2 transfer of a scalpel comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a supporting base,  
4 a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the  
5 base,  
6 a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base  
7 opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to  
8 limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while  
9 allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the  
10 handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of  
11 the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the  
12 base while its blade is received in the receiver, the  
13 grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse  
14 movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the  
15 grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction  
16 force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a  
17 gripped position while the device is handled by a

18 surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in a  
19 vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a  
20 surgeon,  
21 the base including a needle presentation zone  
22 including an open slot and magnetic sheet material on  
23 opposite sides of said slot, said slot being adapted to  
24 receive the jaws of a needle holder.

1 12. (original) A device as set forth in claim 3,  
2 including a restraining portion that prevents a scalpel  
3 blade from being released in an upward direction.

1 13. (currently amended) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a  
4 closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder  
5 having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area  
6 that cooperate to support a scalpel with a straight  
7 handle in a cantilever arrangement whereby a substantial  
8 portion of the length of the straight scalpel handle is  
9 free of obstruction by the device in a space surrounding  
10 said substantial portion and it is thereby readily  
11 grasped, the receiving container being adjacent said  
12 blade receiving zone and remote from said gripping area.

1           14. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 13, wherein said receiving container  
3 has a hinged cover and a releasable latch to maintain  
4 said cover closed on said container.

1           15. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a  
4 closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder  
5 having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area  
6 that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever  
7 arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length  
8 of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is  
9 thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being  
10 adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said  
11 gripping area,

12           said receiving container comprising a shallow box  
13 including a bottom wall, said bottom wall having a  
14 magnetic sheet for holding sharps.

1           16. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 15, wherein said magnetic sheet  
3 includes a grid to facilitate counting of sharps received  
4 in said container.

1           17. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 16, including a cover for said  
3 container, said cover being sufficiently transparent to  
4 permit counting of sharps in said container when said  
5 cover is closed.

1           18. (previously presented) A surgical sharps  
2 handling device as set forth in claim 13, including  
3 finger guards on opposite sides of said scalpel holder  
4 arranged to protect the fingers of a nurse when holding  
5 the device in the fingertips of one hand for presentation  
6 of the scalpel to a surgeon.

1           19. (previously presented) A surgical sharps  
2 handling device as set forth in claim 13, wherein said  
3 scalpel holder has a wasp waist area with a narrow zone  
4 between wider zones to obtain with one hand a positive  
5 finger hold of the device.

1           20. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a  
4 closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder  
5 having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area  
6 that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever  
7 arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length

8 of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is  
9 thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being  
10 adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said  
11 gripping area,

12 said scalpel holder including a magnetic needle  
13 holding area having an open slot, the magnetic holding  
14 area straddling said slot having magnetic material on  
15 each lateral side of said slot.

21. (cancelled).

22. (cancelled).

1 23. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a  
4 closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder  
5 having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area  
6 that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever  
7 arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length  
8 of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is  
9 thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being  
10 adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said  
11 gripping area,

12 the scalpel holder and sharps receiving container  
13 being accessible from a common face of the device,

14 a suture pack mounting zone on a face of said device  
15 opposite said common face,  
16 said mounting zone being partially formed by legs on  
17 said opposite face.

1 24. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 23, wherein said legs include  
3 pressure-sensitive adhesive for adhering said device to a  
4 supporting surface.

1 25. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical  
2 sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded  
3 thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a  
4 closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder  
5 having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area  
6 that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever  
7 arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length  
8 of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is  
9 thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being  
10 adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said  
11 gripping area, and  
12 a magnetic sheet disposed in said container to  
13 magnetically retain sharps in said container.

1 26. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as  
2 set forth in claim 25, including a grid visually dividing

3 the magnetic sheet in the container to facilitate  
4 counting of sharps deposited therein.

1 27. (original) A device as set forth in claim 9,  
2 including a V-shaped notch for receiving and guiding the  
3 scalpel blade.

1 28. (original) A device as set forth in claim 13,  
2 wherein a portion of said body has an exterior non-slip  
3 surface.